



## News in brief

### Air passenger traffic up by 4 percent

Total passenger traffic at Detroit Metropolitan Airport increased by 4 percent for the first quarter of 2008, according to numbers released today by the Airport Authority's Division of Financial Planning and Analysis.

March passengers increased 3.9 percent to 3,364,688 pushing the first quarter to 8,805,643. Operations remained essentially flat as 115,498 aircraft took off or landed on DTW's six jet runways for the first three months of 2008.

"It is very encouraging to see this growth by our hub airline as well as other carriers," said Lester Robinson, Wayne County Airport Authority CEO. "More passengers mean more jobs and economic opportunities for local businesses."

### 2 appointed to governmental posts

The Romulus City Council appointed two residents to the Downtown Development Authority and the Romulus Historical Commission.

Diane Banks, the owner of Axiom Protection Group in downtown Romulus, was appointed to the authority after the retirement of Michelle Mercado, who served on the commission for several years.

Banks requested the appointment because she owns a business in the downtown area, and is, "vested in the welfare and progress of the community."

Tony Heimbarger, a long-time Romulus resident and property manager, was appointed to the Romulus Historical Society. He will occupy a vacant position left by the death of Helen Hay, who served on the commission for several years.

Heimbarger will join three other individuals on the commission - Pearl Varner, Kenneth Kruger and Gloria Chandler.

### Contracts OK'd for park concerts

The Romulus Parks and Recreation Department was authorized to ink contract language for a planned music in the park series, which will take place this summer.

City council members agreed to the terms of the contracts after attorneys retained by the city reviewed the documents.

The contract had to be finalized before the parks department could secure performers for the various shows, according to Kristin Irwin, the director of parks and recreation.

Concert dates are as follows: June 13, June 27, July 11, July 25, Aug. 8 and Aug. 22. All shows will take place from 7-8:30 p.m.

### Fundraiser nets dollars for shelter

On April 25, Romulus Lanes hosted the 4th Annual Bowl-a-Thon to help raise monies for a new animal shelter in Romulus. Romulus Councilman Bill Wadsworth accepted a ceremonial check representing the \$2,100 raised by bowlers and other donors after the event recently.

See News briefs, page 4

# THE ROMULUS ROMAN

Vol. 120, No. 19

NEWS YOU CAN USE, NEWS YOU CAN TRUST

## Incumbent, challenger, win school s

Molly Tippen  
Staff Writer

It looks like the third time was the charm for Danielle Funderburg.

Funderburg, who ran her third campaign for a school board seat, was victorious along with incumbent school board trustee Tom Kuderik Tuesday after the votes were counted in the school board election.

Of the 878 votes cast, Kuderik earned 550 and Funderburg had 491. The other three candidates - Carl Brooks, Darran Shelby and Jay Williams, earned 164, 260 and 94 votes, respectively.

That count is an unofficial tally - the numbers could not be finalized by deadline.

Funderburg said she's glad voters decided to put their faith in her to help steer the 4,200-student school district.

"It's not quite sinking in at this time, but I'm like, 'whatever you

said,'" said Funderburg. "I'm happy, though. I can't wait to get to work."

Among Funderburg's first goals is to acclimate herself to the policy-making environment, and to try to increase parental involvement in the schools, she said.

"Parents need to be involved in schools more," she said. "As long as I'm a parent, I will be a parent volunteer."

Kuderik also said he's pleased to have a second, four-year term on the board.

"I'm sort of at ease now, but I'm really happy," he said. "I'm humbled the voters decide to give another term, and I hope that I can live up to their expectations."

Academic achievement and the student awareness need to be a priority during the next four years, Kuderik said.

"We really have to focus on making sure that our students know about and have all of the

academic opportunities we can give them, so they can compete in what is really a global market," he added.

Funderburg is a parent volunteer at Wick School, where her two children attend classes. Currently, she is employed as a graphic designer when she's not at the school.

Funderburg will replace Betty Lenossi, a 12-year veteran of the school board, who did not seek a fourth term on the board.

Kuderik has completed one term on the school board. He is a manager with Waste Management, one of the largest trash haulers in Michigan.

The seven members of the Romulus School Board are elected at-large.

Board members are charged with the responsibility of setting policy for a district with a \$22 million budget, 350 employees and 4,300 students at six facilities.

See Election, page 4



### Respecting the Earth

The fifth and sixth grade classes at Cory Elementary chose to clean up Elmer Johnson Park in Romulus recently as part of their League Earth Day lesson. Students, parents, and teachers all pitched in during the afternoon of service. Alexander Bell, front row, left to right, Quandal Thompson, Bianca Bellinger, and Jada McGinnis (back row, left to right) Kathy Hurst-Cory League Coach, Keenan Brown-Cory Volunteer, George Stubbs-Cory Volunteer, and JC Commander, a Cory teacher were all on hand to help out.

## School of Choice plan is expanded

Molly Tippen  
Staff Writer

Romulus Community Schools Board of Education members voted Monday night to allow kindergarten through eighth graders who live outside district borders to attend classes at all district facilities.

Schools of Choice, the statewide plan that allows schools to pursue students living in other districts, was first introduced in Romulus two years ago at Wick Elementary.

Last year, another facility began offering the program at both Wick and Halecreek schools, and now, all four elementary schools and the junior high school will have 10 open slots per grade, said Carl Weiss, superintendent of schools.

"What happened last year is that we had too many students at the facilities we advertised," he said. "This strategically is a little different - we can place the students at any building where we have the room."

Last year, the district enrolled 38 students through Schools of Choice, and hopes to fill all of the new slots through a comprehensive advertising campaign that will run this summer, Weiss said.

"There is a two-week window for enrollment, and we'll do some advertising," he said.

District estimates indicate that the schools will net about \$700,000 if all of the slots are filled, Weiss said.

Romulus Community Schools rejected Schools of Choice after

the introduction of the program under former superintendent Joel Carr.

The funding structure for schools - combined with competition created by charter schools in the area - has placed districts in a situation where they must constantly strive to lure students. The Romulus district receives about \$9,000 in per-students funding, and will receive the lion's share of the funding for each student that enrolls in the district.

But Weiss - who created one of the most aggressive choice districts when he was deputy superintendent of the Dearborn 7 District - convinced the board that not accepting outside enrollees would

See Choice, page 4



Tom Kuderik



Danielle Funderburg

## Airport opinions differ

Molly Tippen  
Staff Writer

Even if they didn't agree with the Wayne County Airport Authority master plan, residents who attended the final of four public sessions hosted by the authority appear to have had their questions answered.

The sessions, which took place at the Metropolitan Hotel in Romulus, were scheduled by authority officials to give residents an opportunity to learn more about the plan, and to find out if they're going to be affected by the construction of a new runway along Eureka Road, said Scott Wintner, an airport spokesman.

"I think we had good attendance for these sessions - much better than we had for the meetings to discuss the plan initially," he said. "I would say that we've had about 80 people here at each session. We're very pleased with the participation."

Wintner added that media attention may have driven people into the sessions.

"There's been a lot written about the plan," he said. "This is a chance for people to ask specific questions."

### The plan

The Airport Master Plan was devised throughout 2006 and 2007 in accordance with Federal Aviation Administration rules and to devise a plan to meet what airport officials believe will be increased usage by business and leisure travelers in the next two decades, according to airport officials.

If implemented, the plan would effectively reduce the size of the City of Romulus by about 7 percent, and potentially by 3,500 residents.

The proposed runway remains the most controversial part of the

See Airport, page 4

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# Community healing

## Facility offers prayers to aid others in distress

Scott Spielman  
Editor

Several years ago, Steve Bubb had a revelation.

After two surgeries on a blocked valve, he was told that he might have to be on an I.V. for the remainder of his life.

"It was not a good prognosis," he said. "When you get desperate, there's a whole different way you pray—and I was in pretty dire straights."

So pray he did, along with his wife, Beverly. Within six weeks things began to change, he said. Now healthy, the experience was one that led him and his wife to open up the Community Healing Room (CHR) of Southeast Michigan in an industrial district off Koppernick Road in Canton Township.

That was about four years ago, and the waiting room in the 6,000-square foot space east of I-275 is peppered with testimonials of the people they've helped.

"It's amazing the things we've seen here," said Beverly Bubb.

The CHR is part of an international association of healing rooms that exist in about 680 countries around the world. They were founded in 1915 by John G. Lake. The foundation for the organization is the belief that Jesus Christ continues to heal the sick.

The Bubbs learned about the healing rooms more than 10 years ago.

The couple met in college—he

grew up in Iowa and she in Illinois—and spent a few years in Atlanta before he was transferred to Michigan.

Bubb had more than 30 years invested in corporate America before he was told in 2004 that he was being downsized—that he would be effectively unemployed at the end of the week and that he

didn't have a severance package.

Bubb and his wife had already planned to open the CHR, but had only started on the concept in January of 2004 with the expectation to open it in June.

"We had a wonderful plan," Bubb said.

"Unfortunately it wasn't what God had planned."

So, with the announcement that he no longer had a job, Bubb decided to open the facility on three days' notice and make it his full-time occupation.

Things were difficult at first, and the couple ultimately had to sell their home to make ends meet. After four years, they've built up a steady stream of people they've helped through the organization, a 501(c)3 that operates entirely from donations.

The healing room operates much like a modern doctor's office. Those with the need—whether physical, emotional, financial or addiction—sign in at the front desk, giving a brief history of themselves and their problems. They're directed to one of three prayer



Steve and Beverly Bubb said they've seen some amazing things since they opened the Community Healing Room of southeast Michigan four years ago.

rooms, where a prayer team prays for their well-being.

"We try to make it real for people," said Beverly Bubb, whose prayer has helped her overcome issues in her own life. "Some people have a hard time understanding that God is real."

They don't claim a 100 percent success rate. Neither do they claim to be healers—anything positive that happens happens because of God, they said—and they don't claim to be doctors, either.

"We would never advise anyone to stop seeing a doctor," Steve

Bubb said.

Even so, the couple said that more than 1,000 people have gone through the center during their four years of operation, a number that is increasing because of cutbacks in the health care industry. The waiting room is filled with testimonials—some attached to doctors' reports—of faith based healing. People have reported torn rotator cuffs have been repaired without surgery; others wrote about remissions in cancer or the speedy healing of broken bones.

"We've had all kinds of things

happen," Bubb said.

The organization is attached to any particular religion, either. In fact, Beverly Bubb said some of their success stories came from people who didn't even believe in God.

"If you drive here and walk through the door, that's all the faith you need," she said.

The facility is open to walk-ins from 7-9 p.m. on Mondays and Wednesdays.

For more information, visit [www.communityhealingrooms.com](http://www.communityhealingrooms.com)

### Mother's Day Sunday

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# College offers course in video game design

Andrea King  
Staff Writer

Henry Dryovage, instructor at the video game design program at the Wayne County Community College District (WCCCD) western campus, considers himself a visionary.

He's able to see the possibility in something and someone, he said, which drew him to the industry right at its infancy.

"At the time computers were used more for accounting purposes," he said. "But I knew computer graphics we're going to boom."

That's when he started the International

Interactive Communication Society (IICS) for computers and Internet resource. It was everything before the web is now, he said, which eventually brought him to teaching at the Center for Creative Studies, along with WCCCD.

As a visionary, 50-year-old Dryovage, who is also a freelance illustrator and animator, now has an image for the gaming program.

"It will get the students interested in college," he said.

"Our program is unique because it focuses on women, particularly women of color," he added. "There's a huge opportunity for them and once gaming opens up to women, they'll

be spending more time in it and making sellable decisions. The focus is making women aware it's focused for them."

Students learn the history of gaming, how to design a video game, animation, storytelling and game content through the MAYA software. Classrooms are also equipped with the latest MAC computers, blue tooth capabilities, Wacom tablets with wireless pen tools and high-end cameras.

The industry is now at a changing point, too, where it's getting bigger, Dryovage said.

"The auto industry's not going away it's just shifting personnel," he said. "There's opportunity for us 3D artists, there's no down-

turn, even with the economy the way it is, there's actually a huge demand for this talent."

Currently, the video game design program is split between men, women and dually enrolled high school and college students. There seems to be a slightly larger interest from women, but that could be because they see the possibility, Dryovage said.

"It will definitely have a huge opportunity for women in the future," he said. "People are also coming to learn and retrain skills for electronic computer manufacturing so it's not just new students, it's people already in the field."

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE ROMULUS CITY COUNCIL HELD APRIL 14, 2008 IN THE ROMULUS CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBER 11111 S. WAYNE ROAD, ROMULUS, MICHIGAN 48174.				
The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by Mayor Pro Tem Randolph Gear. Present: John Barden, LeRoy Burcroff, Harry Crout, William Crova, Randolph Gear, William Wadsworth. Excused: Ellen Craig-Bragg. Administrative Officials in Attendance: Betsey Krampitz, Chief of Staff Linda R. Choate, Clerk Pamela Morrison/Kersey, CMFA, Treasurer				
1. Motion by Crova, supported by Barden to approve the agenda as amended.				
Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes -Barden, Burcroff, Crout, Crova, Gear, Wadsworth. Nays - None. Motion Carried Unanimously.				
08-093				
2. Motion by Wadsworth, supported by Crout to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of the Romulus City Council held April 7, 2008.				
Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes -Barden, Burcroff, Crout, Crova, Gear, Wadsworth. Nays - None. Motion Carried Unanimously.				
3A. * Item Deleted.				
08-094				
4A. Motion by Crout, supported by Barden to adopt a memorial resolution for the family of Clarence Green.				
Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes -Barden, Burcroff, Crout, Crova, Gear, Wadsworth. Nays - None. Motion Carried Unanimously.				
4. Motion by Burcroff, supported by Barden to accept the Chairpersons Report.				
Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes - Barden, Burcroff, Crout, Crova, Wadsworth. Nays - None. Motion Carried Unanimously.				
08-095				
5A. Motion by Wadsworth, supported by Crout to concur with the recommendation of Debra Hoffman, Finance Director and legal counsel to authorize the Mayor and Clerk to enter into a personal services contract with Patsy Cantrell for services as the City of Romulus Health Care Administrator, effective April 1, 2008, costs not to exceed \$10,000 in any fiscal year.				
Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes - Barden, Burcroff, Crout, Crova, Gear, Wadsworth. Nays - None. Motion Carried Unanimously.				
08-096				
5B. Motion by Crova, supported by Burcroff to concur with Debbie Hoffman, Finance Director and the City of Romulus Retiree's Health Care Committee and approve the investment policy for the Retiree's Healthcare fund.				
Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes - Barden, Burcroff, Crout, Crova, Gear, Wadsworth. Nays - None. Motion Carried Unanimously.				
08-097				
5C. Motion by Burcroff, supported by Wadsworth to introduce Budget Amendment 07/08/21:				
FUND/DEPT. ACCOUNT NO.	ACCOUNT NAME	CURRENT BUDGET	AMENDMENT	AMENDED BUDGET
Motor Vehicle fund Expense				
661-4410-744.74-82	Gas & Oil	295,000	130,000	425,000
Fund Balance				
661-0000-395.00-00	Retained Earnings	212,325	(130,000)	82,325
To compensate for the increase in gasoline and fuel prices in 2007 and 2008.				
Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes - Barden, Burcroff, Crout, Crova, Gear, Wadsworth. Nays - None. Motion Carried Unanimously.				
08-098				
5D. Motion by Wadsworth, supported by Crout to introduce budget amendment 07/08-22:				
FUND/DEPT. ACCOUNT NO.	ACCOUNT NAME	CURRENT BUDGET	AMENDMENT	AMENDED BUDGET
General Fund Expense				
101-1210-712.72-40	Health Insurance - Mayor	48,823	1,663	50,486
101-1310-713.72-40	Health Insurance - Clerk	58,600	4,630	63,230
101-1320-713.72-40	Health Insurance - Election	11,088	1,420	12,508
101-1410-714.72-40	Health Insurance - Treasurer	45,555	13,170	58,725
101-2210-722.72-40	Health Insurance - Comm. Dev.	1,055	84	1,139
101-2310-723.72-40	Health Insurance - Finance	72,217	5,403	77,620
101-3110-731.72-40	Health Insurance - Police	804,240	30,760	835,000
101-3110-731.72-42	Prescription Reimb-Police	6,000	2,000	8,000
101-3210-732.72-40	Health Insurance - Ordinance	30,421	1,831	32,252
101-3210-732.72-42	Prescription Reimb-Ordinance	50	150	200
101-3310-733.72-40	Health Insurance - Animal Control	33,225	1,975	35,200
101-3410-734.72-40	Health Insurance - Fire	273,125	22,816	295,941
101-3510-735.72-40	Health Insurance - Emerg.Mgmt.	4,070	287	4,357
101-3910-739.72-40	Health Insurance -Building Safety	159,500	1,870	161,370
101-3910-739.72-42	Prescription Reimb-Bldg Safety	200	250	450
101-4110-741.72-40	Health Insurance - D.P.W.	10,600	972	11,572
101-5110-751.72-40	Health Insurance - Parks & Rec	45,350	2,857	48,207
101-5110-751.72-42	Prescription Reimb-Parks & Rec	100	350	450
101-5120-752.72-40	Health Insurance - Library	6,475	455	6,930
101-5160-751.72-40	Health Insurance - Seniors	5,275	420	5,695
Contingency				
101-2920-729.89-01	Contingencies	329,747	(93,363)	236,384
Major Road Fund Expense				
202-4210-742.72-40	Health Insurance - Routine	24,083	1,819	25,902
202-4220-742.72-40	Health Insurance - Traffic	3,441	259	3,700
202-4230-742.72-40	Health Insurance - Wiinter	3,440	260	3,700
202-4240-742.72-40	Health Insurance - Ditching	3,440	260	3,700
202-4250-742.72-40	Health Insurance - Forestry	11,784	1,086	12,870
Fund Balance				
202-0000-390.00-00	Fund Balance	815,267	(3,684)	811,583
Local Street Fund Expense				
203-4310-742.72-40	Health Insurance - Routine	38,691	2,937	41,628
203-4320-742.72-40	Health Insurance - Traffic	4,127	499	4,626
203-4330-742.72-40	Health Insurance - Winter	2,580	194	2,774
203-4340-742.72-40	Health Insurance - Ditching	6,191	284	6,475
203-4350-742.72-40	Health Insurance - Forestry	17,664	1,641	19,305
Fund Balance				
203-0000-390.00-00	Fund Balance	70,564	(5,555)	65,009
To compensate for the increases in rates and changes in employee health coverage as of July 1, 2007				
FUND/DEPT. ACCOUNT NO.	ACCOUNT NAME	CURRENT BUDGET	AMENDMENT	AMENDED BUDGET
Expense				
211-5140-751.72-40	Health Insurance - Cable	22,700	1,728	24,428
Fund Balance				
211-0000-390.00-00	Fund Balance	153,420	(1,728)	151,692
Downtown Development Authority Expense				
295-7410-774.7240	Health Insurance - DDA	15,900	922	16,822
Fund Balance				
295-0000-390.00-00	Fund Balance	68,485	(922)	67,563
Tax Increment Finance Authority Expense				
297-7210-772.72-40	Health Insurance - TIFA	36,270	5,141	41,411
Prescription				
297-7210-772.72-42	Reimbursement	100	100	200
Fund Balance				
297-0000-390.00-00	Fund Balance	14,951,378	(5,241)	14,946,137
Water & Sewer Fund Expense				
592-4510-745.72-40	Health Insurance - Water	163,400	8,250	171,650
592-4520-745.7240	Health Insurance - Sewer	163,400	8,250	171,650
Retained Earnings				
592-0000-395.00-00	Retained Earnings	4,969,196	(16,500)	4,952,696
Motor Vehicle Pool Fund Expense				
661-4410.744-72.40	Health Insurance -MVF	98,200	6,605	104,805
Contingency				
661-4410-744.89-01	Contingencies	9,000	(6,605)	2,395
Technology Services Expense				
664-2320-723.7240	Health Insurance - IT	17,580	1,030	18,610
Retained Earnings				
664-0000-395.00-00	Retained Earnings	574,843	(1,030)	573,813
To compensate for the increases in rates and changes in employee health coverage as of July 1, 2007				
Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes - Barden, Burcroff, Crout, Crova, Gear, Wadsworth. Nays - None. Motion Carried Unanimously.				
08-099				
5E. Motion by Barden, supported by Burcroff to introduce budget amendment 07/08-23:				
FUND/DEPT. ACCOUNT NO.	ACCOUNT NAME	CURRENT BUDGET	AMENDMENT	AMENDED BUDGET
General Fund Expense				
101-2110-721.77.39	Engineering Fees-Assessor	20,000	4,150	24,150
Fund Balance				
101-0000-390.00-00	Fund Balance	2,920,933	(4,150)	2,916,783
To cover a delayed billing from Wayne County for 2005-2007 tax map revisions. The revenues were received during those same fiscal years and rolled into fund balances				
Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes - Barden, Burcroff, Crout, Crova, Gear, Wadsworth. Nays - None. Motion Carried Unanimously.				
08-100				
5F. Motion by Burcroff, supported by Barden to concur with the Administration and approve the appointment of Diane Banks to the Downtown Development Authority with a term to expire on 7/31/11, and to send correspondence thanking Michelle A. Mercado for her services to the City of Romulus as a board member to the Downtown Development Authority.				
Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes - Barden, Burcroff, Crova, Gear, Wadsworth. Nays - None. Abstain - Crout. Motion Carried.				
08-101				
5G. Motion by Crova, supported by Burcroff to concur with the administration and approve the appointment of Tony Heimbürger to the Romulus Historical Society.				
Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes - Barden, Burcroff, Crout, Crova, Gear, Wadsworth. Nays - None. Motion Carried Unanimously.				
08-102				
6A1. Motion by Crova, supported by Burcroff to approve second reading and final adoption of policies #17 and 18, Employees policy and Procedures Manual, introduced at the Council Meeting of March 24, 2008.				
Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes - Barden, Burcroff, Crout, Crova, Gear, Wadsworth. Nays - None. Motion Carried Unanimously.				
08-103				
6A2. Motion by Burcroff, supported by Crova to approve second reading and final adoption of Policy #21, Employee Policy and Procedures Manual, (eliminating Married Couples and being replaced by new policy #21 entitled Wellness Benefits).				
Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes - Barden, Burcroff, Crout, Crova, Gear, Wadsworth. Nays - None. Motion Carried Unanimously.				
08-104				
11. Motion by Burcroff, supported by Barden to authorize City Treasurer to disburse funds as listed in Warrant 08-07 in the amount of Eight Hundred, Twenty Four Thousand, Seven Hundred Forty Six dollars and Sixty Two Cents (\$824,746.62).				
Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes - Barden, Burcroff, Crout, Gear, Wadsworth. Nays - None. Abstain - Crova. Motion Carried.				
12. Motion by Wadsworth, supported by Barden to adjourn the regular meeting of the Romulus City Council.				
Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes - Barden, Burcroff, Crout, Crova, Gear, Wadsworth. Nays - None. Motion Carried Unanimously.				
Respectfully submitted, Linda R. Choate, City Clerk City of Romulus, Michigan				
I, Linda R. Choate, Clerk for the City of Romulus, Michigan do hereby certify the foregoing to be a true copy of the minutes of the regular meeting of the Romulus City Council held on April 14, 2008.				
Linda R. Choate, City Clerk City of Romulus, Michigan				
Publish: May 8, 2008				



Help for the animals

Romulus Councilman Bill Wadsworth (left) accepts a check representing the \$2,100.00 raised for the new Romulus Animal Shelter from Romulus Lanes Vice-President of Operations Rick Haydniak (right). This event was a success because of the business and individual sponsors who gave generously, said Wadsworth.

## Bomb threat was investigated

Molly Tippen  
Staff Writer

Bomb-sniffing dogs cleared Blanchette Middle School for students on Friday after a threat was reported to police, according to police reports.

Ofc. Camille Howard said school security called police to report that students had told them an 11-year-old male classmate wrote that the school would blow up at 12:30 p.m. on May 6.

“Some of the students told the security staff what the student wrote,” she said. “That led us to him.”

After school was closed,

Michigan State Police bomb sniffing dogs checked out the entire building, and it was determined that the threat was not credible. Students were never in danger at the school, police said.

The boy was taken into custody, and is awaiting a hearing at juvenile court to determine why he made the threat, Howard said.

Bomb threats have become commonplace in many cities, and its not the first time Inkster Public Schools has dealt with one.

In 2006, Inkster High School was evacuated after receiving a bomb threat by phone, and it turned out, nothing was found at the school.

Law enforcement officials see

such threats as a possible danger within the community, and its likely there will be ramifications for the student, police said.

Calls made to Inkster Schools headquarters were not immediately returned Tuesday.

Not much is known about the student who made the threat, other than he is a resident of Inkster and is in the sixth grade. It is generally the policy of The Inkster Ledger-Star not to name under-aged persons charged with a crime in the juvenile system.

Classes were in session at Blanchette, which is on Henry Ruff Road, and there were no incidents at the school, police said.

## Choice

FROM PAGE 1

place the district at a competitive disadvantage.

Outside students have caused a commotion in the community at times, however.

In 2005, angry parents converged on a school board meeting to protest the number of outside students at the district because many felt that those families did not pay comparatively high school taxes.

Weiss said he believes the program has been explained to resi-

dents in a way that will encourage their support.

“I think everyone knows that all of the schools around us are doing this,” he said. “We haven’t had any complaints since we started taking students, so we have a lot of support.”

## Airport

FROM PAGE 1

plan because many businesses and homes would have to be demolished to provide adequate space.

The toll on the city would be the loss of the 350-unit Sky Harbor Apartments, 30 industrial buildings, 18 commercial buildings, at least one subdivision, and Merriman Elementary School. In all, about 800 residences would be demolished, and the city could stand to lose almost \$1 million in assessed revenue, according to the city.

The school district could lose as much as \$1.7 million in revenue.

An underground or above-ground monorail system could be added to transport travelers and employees around the airport grounds by 2013. A cargo operation could be added near the Wayne-Vining Road area.

The three-phase master plan outlines an expansion that would take until 2027 to complete.

The authority is expected to vote on the plan later this month.

### Differing views

During the meetings, several residents asked about the necessity

of an additional runway, and the fact that a consultant hired by the city has said a new runway can be constructed at the airport without the use of additional land on Eureka Road.

“They’re absolutely right,” said Deven Judd, a consultant with Jacobson-Daniels, a firm hired by the airport to help devise the master plan.

“We could add a runway, but what we’re talking about is capacity,” he added. “We need the space to be able to fly planes in and out of the airport safely, and there’s no way we can do that (with a runway on the property).”

Another popular question for people who live in the Oakbrook subdivision – which would be demolished to make room for the runway – was how home value would be determined if the plan is implemented.

Wendy Snider, a relocation expert hired by the airport, said state law required values to be based on home prices outside the affected area to ensure residents are properly compensated.

“We would look at home values miles away from the affected area, along with individual aspects of the house,” she said.

Home sellers could get 125 per-

cent of the determined value of their home, and would have the ability to appeal the price through the court system if they feel the offer is less than the appraised value, Snider said.

### Residents concerned

Al Norris, a residents who found out he would not be affected by the relocation, said he believed the community was stirred up about something that may never happen.

“Everyone is in an uproar because of this,” he said. “People are wondering if they’re going to have to move – it’s been disruptive.”

Katherine Sisco and her husband, Darryl, moved to their home in the Oakbrook subdivision in 1971, and say buyouts won’t happen soon enough.

“Most of the people in our neighborhood are close to our age, and want out,” she said. “We’re getting to the point where we can’t take care of the lawn, and we’re just ready to go.”

Sisco did say she wishes the airport would have waited on the master plan a few years, however:

“Now, we can’t sell our homes if we want to leave sooner than the expansion,” she said. “But if they give us a fair price, we’ll go.”

## Election

FROM PAGE 1

The next four years are expected to be challenging ones for area schools. Per-pupil funding is still at risk because of the economic issues currently plaguing the state.

The district has had to lay off employees for two years in a row to balance its budget. Also, the district is in the process of converting

from a traditional semester system to trimesters at Romulus High School.

A comparatively small number of registered voters decided the election. Though turnout was expected to be low, the number of votes cast is less than 6 percent of the 16,000 register voters.

Canvassers will hit the streets to finalize the count. Official results are currently available at [www.journalgroup.com](http://www.journalgroup.com).

## Briefs

FROM PAGE 1

The event is one of several organized by residents and local businesses to replace the old shelter. About \$250,000 is needed, and about half of that has been collected, according to Wadsworth.

— News briefs are compiled by Staff Writer Molly Tippen.

# Eco-fair was a success

Lester L. Holmes, Jr.  
Staff Writer

Add the Green Street Fair to the list of spring and summertime traditions in Plymouth.

Thousands of people traveled to Kellogg Park last weekend to learn about the benefits of green, organic, and eco-friendly products and services during the inaugural environmental extravaganza. Event organizers said its one of the few festivals of this kind in Michigan and throughout the rest of the country.

“(The Green Street Fair) was better than we expected,” said Mandi Buckland one of the four organizers of the event who admitted to crying with joy at the conclusion of the fair.

”

*A first year event is always a gamble.*

*Fortunately people came out despite the rain and got the message.*

Mandi Buckland

Buckland, who along with Teri O’Brien, Raychel Rork and Dianne Quinn brought the inaugural environmental event to Plymouth, said they had worked for more than a year to bring large and small companies, vendors, environment and ecology experts, elected officials, artists and entertainers together in a festival environment to promote small and practical changes that local families and business owners can make to save natural resources and money.

While the women brought together years of event planning and festival creation experience to the event, Buckland said no one could have predicted the outcome—or the raindrops.

“A first year event is always a gamble. Fortunately people came out despite the rain and got the message,” said Buckland. “The attendance was amazing.”

Donna Napolitano, a representative of Mechanical Energy Systems, a company located in Canton Township that converts offices and homes to use solar power for heating, said the timing for the event was perfect as everyone is focused on the rising costs of gas and heating fuels.

“People came out because they’re interested in saving money and very interested in learning what their options are,” said Napolitano who gave a presentation entitled “Be GREEN, Save GREEN” to a packed house inside the Penn Theater last Sunday.

“We’ve been doing alternative energy for 23 years, now people are starting to listen.”

The scores of green businesses who set-up displays in downtown Plymouth were not the only ones to benefit, according to Plymouth City Manager Paul Sincock.

“Several merchants have told us they noticed increased sales last weekend,” said Sincock “The event was fabulous and the crowds were excellent for a first year event.”

Buckland said the Green Fair would report the official number of attendees in a wrap-up statement within the next week. She said the fair organizers would gather soon again to plan for next year’s event, albeit with a minor change.

“We may move it back a few weeks,” said Buckland who said she wants to make sure next year the event is scheduled when the weather is typically warm and bright.

No matter if the weather is sunny and dry or dreary and damp, Buckland said the event would be as much if not more fun the second time around.

“We’re absolutely bringing (the event) back.”

What are your thoughts on the Green Street Fair? Talk about it at [www.journalgroup.com](http://www.journalgroup.com)

## Calendar of events

### Airport schedules auction

The Wayne County Airport Authority will auction surplus equipment at 10 a.m. Saturday, May 3.

On the auction block will be a variety of used goods no longer needed by Airport Authority personnel, including computers, generators, exercise equipment, televisions, furniture, and used fire truck and utility vehicles.

The auction will also feature a wide variety of unclaimed “lost and found” items, including laptop computers, cell phones, MP3 players, digital cameras, jewelry and more. Items from other local municipalities and large consignments will also be included.

Auction items will be available for viewing prior to the auction from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. on Friday, May 2, and for one hour prior to the start of the auction on Saturday.

Interested bidders are also welcome to register during the Friday preview to save time on the day of the auction.

Participants are advised that parking is limited, so interested bidders should arrive early to secure a parking space and to register. A refundable deposit is required in order to bid.

The auction will take place at Martin’s Towing & Sales at 17180 Dix-Toledo Highway in Brownstown Township.

For more information call Martin’s Towing & Sales at (734) 283-8003.

### City-wide garage sale is coming

Residents who want to rid themselves of some things that have been cluttering their homes can do so on the weekend of May 15-18 during the annual city-wide garage sale.

The sale gives residents the opportunity to have a yard sale without a paying for a permit.

However, residents planning to have a garage sale must complete a no-fee permit at the Romulus Parks and Recreation Department.

For more information, call (734) 941-8665.

### Scrapbooking adventure planned

The Romulus Recreation Department is hosting a series of scrap booking gatherings at the Shook Road location.

The class, which is limited to the first 12 people who sign up, includes at least 3 feet of crop space; snacks, water and dinner; supplies; a raffle drawing for a additional fee; and a door prize drawing.

All classes will run from noon-9 p.m. Classes are open to those 16 and older.

The cost of individual classes is \$20 (cash only).

For more information, call (734) 941-8665.

### Mom-to-mom sale

Moms who seek to obtain high-quality used items are invited to the annual Mom-to-Mom sale.

The sale is scheduled from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on May 10 at the Romulus Progressive Hall, 11580 Ozga Road.

Rental is \$20 for a 10-foot by 8-foot space with a table. Space is limited, and early registration is encouraged.

Concessions will be available.

For more information, call (734) 941-8665.

— Compiled by Staff Writer Molly Tippen. To publish an event, send an e-mail to [mtippen@journalgroup.com](mailto:mtippen@journalgroup.com).

# Local author publishes book of poetry

Scott Spielman  
Editor

Inkster native Karen S. Williams has just finished a long journey.

Her first collection of poetry, *Elegy for a Scarred Shoulder*, released recently, is the culmination of more than eight years of hard work.

"It was an exhausting time, but it was a good experience," she said. "I really enjoyed it."

The book is a collection of 42 poems that chronicle the real and symbolic health issues—and advancements—African Americans have experienced from the times of slavery to the modern age. She said many of the poems are based on the true stories and experiences of historic clergymen like Richard Allen and Absalom Jones as well as more recognizable names such as Ervin 'Magic' Johnson.

The idea dated back to her time working with the Wayne County Health Department, she said.

"Going out in the community and working with people and seeing all these issues—I saw the need to document it in literature," Williams said. "I wanted to talk about the health issues of our people."

Williams said she was drawn to writing at an early age.

"I really started in junior high school," she said. "That's when my teachers realized I had a gift."

She credits their influence in the development of her craft; they urged her to pursue it in junior high, high school and college as well. She's had poems published before, including in the anthology *Young Americans Speak*, which is published across the country. Not bad for someone who originally pursued a degree in journalism.

"I thought I would be the next Jessica Savitch, but it didn't work out that way," she said with a laugh.

Williams graduated with a journalism degree from the Ohio University Scripps School of Journalism. She's since earned two master's degrees from Wayne State University and Michigan State University.

The book originated in 2000, when she started the four years worth of research necessary to find the stories and put them in lyrical form. Then came another challenge—putting them in a timeline and picking which stories to include.

"I really wanted to get those hard-to-find stories," she said. "Those are what we all talk about at the kitchen table."

She said she chose poetry to express them because she was



Inkster native Karen S. Williams has just published her first book of poetry.

more familiar with the medium and the combination of written and spoken word seemed to fit the subject matter.

It is available on Amazon.Com and through the publisher's website, [www.aquariuspressbook-](http://www.aquariuspressbook-seller.net)

[seller.net](http://seller.net). It can also be ordered through Williams' website, [www.kswpoetry.com](http://www.kswpoetry.com)

"This book is a cry to the people: 'What can I do?'" She said. "I wanted to give back, to make a difference. These are issues that we can

solve, but we need to do it together. We can't do it in a vacuum."

Williams is working on a second book of poetry to be published soon. It is about growing up in Inkster, and tentatively titled 'Inkster's Daughter.'

# City-wide garage sale set this weekend in Westland

Meghan Chatham  
Staff Writer

This Saturday, bargain hunters in search of their latest deal will be able to hit nearly 100 sales as the Westland community garage sale returns.

From 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., the parking lot adjacent to Westland City Hall at 36601 Ford Road will be transformed into a selling floor with 99 vendor spaces. Rain or shine, those in search of a bargain will be able to visit the outdoor marketplace filled with goods of all shapes, sizes, and prices.

According to Margaret Martin, therapeutic recreation supervisor for the City of

Westland and one of the organizers of the event, the family-friendly event typically attracts a steady stream of treasure hunters.

"People like to look for bargains," said Martin. "In terms of foot traffic, I'm guessing we'll get at least 1,000 (shoppers) if the weather is good."

Although the items available and pricing will vary from booth to booth, Martin said that the sale typically includes everything from children's items and kitchenware to antiques and handcrafted items.

"There's quite a variety of things," she said.

Paul Motz, director of the Westland Youth Assistance Program and one of the organiz-

ers of the event, said that while the event is a haven for those in search of a deal at any time, the economic challenges facing the region will likely make it even more popular.

"You can really pick up some great deals if you're willing to haggle," he said. "It's really a great time."

Various foods and beverages will be for sale at concession stands operated by the Westland Jaycees, the Westland Police Explorers program, and the Westland Stars cheer and dance team.

It's too late to become a seller at the annual spring sale—it sold out in mid-April. People who plan to clean out the attic or finally tackle the garage this summer will,

however, be able to reserve spaces for the upcoming Sept. 20 sale beginning at 9 a.m. on Saturday. Reservations will be accepted at the nearby Bailey Recreation Center, 36651 Ford Road. Space rental will be \$20 or \$25 per site depending in location and payment is due upon reservation. Rentals are first come, first serve. Each site is one parking space in size; renters must provide their own tables.

Originally hosted by the Westland Chamber of Commerce, the sale is now operated jointly by the Westland Parks and Recreation Department and the Westland Youth Assistance Program.

For information, (734) 722-7620.

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# OPINION

## Belleville City Council delay could be costly

"We've gone to the well twice and we've come up dry. We need help."

That was a telling comment at the Belleville City Council meeting on Monday night. The item on the agenda was the ongoing search for a new city manager—a search that has gone on for nearly a year now.

The council members agreed recently to use the Michigan Municipal League (MML) to search for the new manager after the last two candidates in previous searches were offered but declined the job. The city had posted the position on the web site before, but using the league is another matter entirely. The organization essentially has a team of consultants who specialize in that sort of thing; one of them serves as a sort of contracted human resources person to identify a number of people for the job.

The issue Monday was a relatively simple one—the approval of the contract with the league. One might expect a relatively quick discussion followed by a stamp of approval.

Not so. It almost didn't happen.

Some members of the council initially balked at what they perceived as a change in the contract language. Essentially, it pointed out that the firm would be paid the \$6,850 if they were able to present a viable candidate to the council, whereas previous conversations indicated that the MML would only be paid if the candidate were hired.

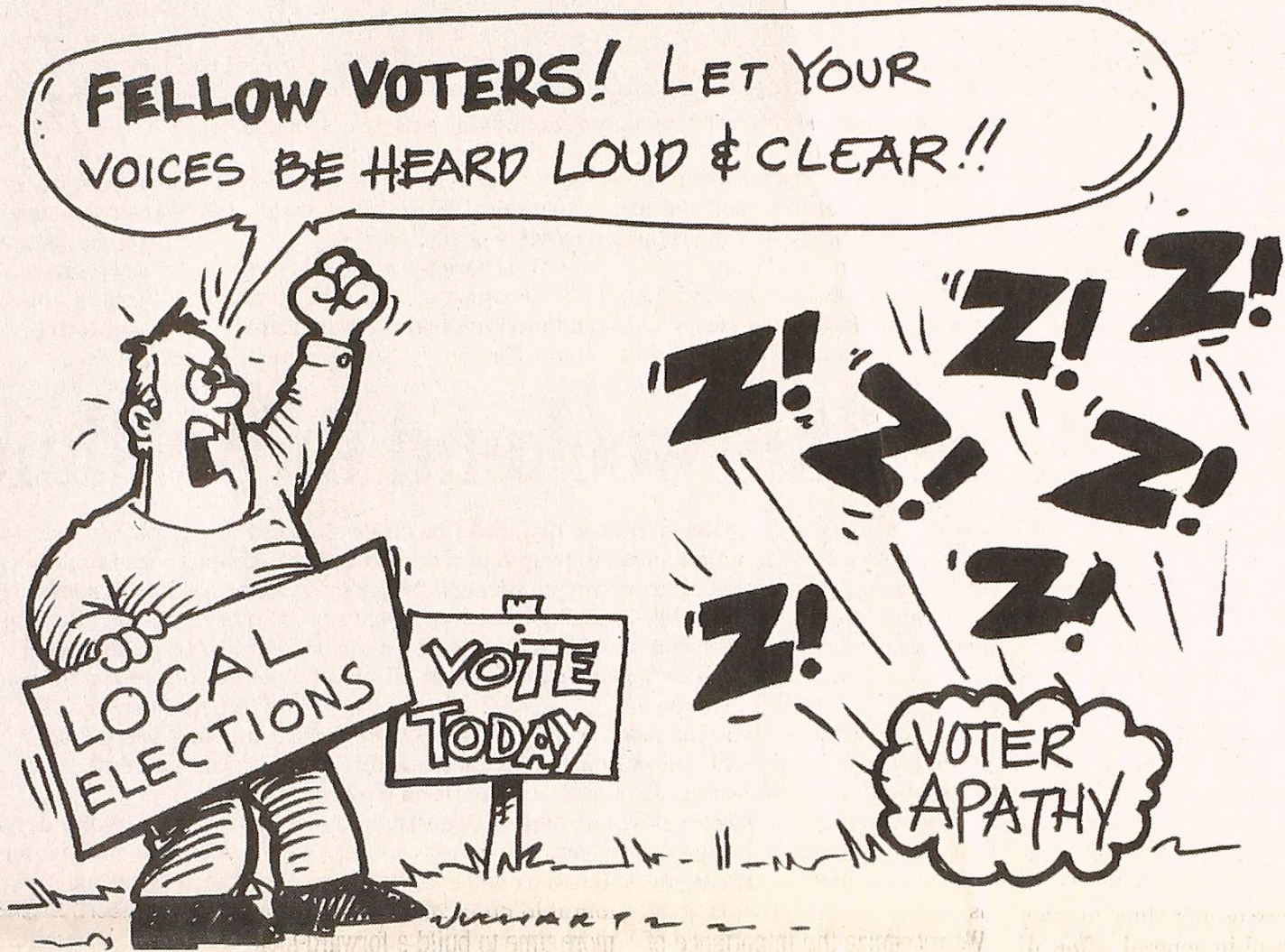
A motion to hire the firm died for a lack of support and council members were left wondering what to do next. They eventually decided to bring a representative of the MML to their next meeting to get further clarification on their definition of a 'viable candidate.'

This is a bit silly.

Hiring the MML should be a no-brainer at this point given the difficulty the city has had in finding a successor to Steve Walters or Walter Mears—if you consider his short term of duty. These kinds of last minute obstructions to progress will probably serve to drive away many who might ponder taking on the job to begin with.

We hate to point out the obvious, but this has gone on entirely too long. City staffers have done an admirable job of carrying on the day-to-day business in Belleville, but the seams are beginning to show. The issue over the district library has yet to be solved, the streetscape improvement project is in jeopardy as are other important projects or potential developments.

It's time for the council to suck it up, pay the fee and move forward.



## The way to 'go green'

If the attendance at the first Green Street Fair in Plymouth is any indicator, there is a strong desire to help save the environment.

That's good to know.

The event drew thousands to downtown Plymouth during the weekend. Many visitors dodged rain showers and chilly temperatures to learn what they could do to reduce their impact on the earth, to promote a more environmentally-friendly lifestyle and just 'Go Green' in general.

They found anything from organic foods to alternative energy sources to information on cleaner-running cars, recycled products and a whole lot more.

Sure, there were probably a lot of people just wandering around and gathering up the free stuff, but the fair didn't need to reach everyone who attended to have an impact. If the event helped change the attitude of a fraction of the people who attended, it will be a success. Its not that difficult to change one's way of thinking, after all, and once that happens, it's not that difficult to adjust one's lifestyle.

These kinds of things are important, too, because they are the best way we can help protect the earth. Legislators at all levels will talk about developing more alternative energy sources, new types of fuel and reducing our dependency on foreign oil and all that. Don't get us wrong, those are all important things, but they won't hold a beeswax candle to the kind of impact that we can all make if we get on this grass roots bandwagon and change how we individually live our lives.

This is one effort that truly begins at home. Kudos to event organizers Dianne Quinn, Raychel Rork, Mandi Buckland and Teri O'Brien for bringing the issues to the forefront and doing it in a classy way.

## Outnumbered at the precinct

I'm writing this after a quick trip to the voting precinct on Tuesday.

I vote at Hoover Elementary in Wayne, where my son goes to school. There's always a cheery bunch of precinct workers awaiting me and Tuesday was no exception. I suppose it could be just because they were waiting for someone to talk to. At about 10 a.m., I was the fifth voter in precinct 7. No one greeted me as I approached the building—no one was there to hand out literature, say thank you or anything like that.

Ah, a typical school board election.

It's really sad, honestly, the kind of turnout school elections tend to have. Clerks in some communities actually sound optimistic when they predict a 10 percent turnout. They do what they can to increase the numbers, but their efforts have been limited lately by an idiotic court ruling that prevents them from sending out unsolicited absentee ballot applications the way they have been able to in the past.

I've editorialized often—during every school election cycle, probably—about the importance of school board elections. The quality of a school district is an important facet of the quality of life—and therefore, property values—in any municipality and the people in charge of school decisions have a tremendous burden to bear. It's a travesty that they are usually put in place by such a small minority of voters.

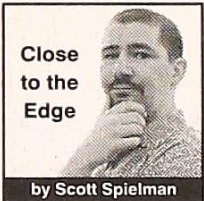
Part of it is the problem with the electoral system to begin with. State legislators, in their infinite wisdom, have tried to make it easier for voters by setting up specific dates each year where a school district can choose to schedule elections. They've transferred the responsibility from the districts themselves to the cities or townships they serve. It has, for the most part, made things even more confusing.

Part of the debate about moving school board elections to November—which some districts, such as Plymouth-Canton and Northville have done—centered on the number of other items on the ballot. School board members have expressed concern about being lost on a busy ballot.

Well, is that any worse than being lost in a sea of apathy? I think not.

There needs to be more election reform in Michigan. Maybe it makes more sense to have one set day for school elections—for school board races, millage requests, sinking fund questions, community college issues—for districts to plan around. They might initially complain about the lack of flexibility, but if they can't plan around a set schedule year in and year out, flexibility won't help them.

It certainly doesn't make much sense the way things are now. Is there any other business where you would pay five or six people to wait around all day for a thin stream of customers?



Close to the Edge

by Scott Spielman

## Totally flawed: Runway plan will devastate region

The citizens who live near Detroit Metro Airport should be very concerned about the airport's proposed Master Plan for expansion, which includes a new fifth parallel runway that will devastate Romulus, put neighboring communities at risk – and is wholly unneeded.

The fifth runway will cut through neighborhoods in Romulus, razing hundreds of houses and forcing 3,500 citizens out of their homes. In addition, the runway would level nearly 50 local businesses, affecting scores of jobs and our ability to compete economically. It could close two schools. It will cut through two of southeast Michigan's busiest surface roads – Eureka and Middlebelt – and affect commuters and local business. Police, fire and emergency services will be severely harmed. Romulus would lose 16 percent of its population and \$114 million in assessed value if the airport succeeds in pushing this plan through. For the remaining families, the new runway will worsen the noise problem, harm the environment and diminish their quality of life.

The fifth runway will inflict a terrible price on Romulus and local communities.

To make its argument that Detroit needs a fifth runway, the Airport Authority's consultants relied on data from 2004 to conclude that flight activity will go up at Detroit Metro and the new runway is needed to meet increasing operations.

Not so fast.

We are now midway through 2008 and a lot has happened since 2004, which was the last time the Airport Authority looked at the real numbers.

In just the past year, fuel costs have risen more than 83 percent, significantly reducing flight volumes. Every year from 2004 through 2007, the Federal Aviation Administration has actually forecast less activity at Detroit – not more. The FAA projects now, using current 2007 figures, that Detroit Metro will see around 670,000 operations in 2025, not 810,000 as the airport projects using outdated, four-year-old data. Even Lester

Robinson, executive director of the Airport Authority, himself confessed in the days prior to Sept. 11, 2001, that the airport's then-new fourth runway would be more than enough to handle operations through 2025. In fact, the airport's actual and forecasted operations have actually declined since Robinson said four runways are all the airport needs through 2025. Oh, and Northwest is poised to merge with Delta at a time when major U.S. carriers – including Northwest – have said they would slash operations by up to 10 percent.

In other words, Detroit Metro doesn't need a fifth parallel runway.

The Master Plan is fatally flawed because its conclusions – that Detroit Metro needs a fifth runway plus a runway extension – are built on a staggering series of false assumptions, gaps in reasoning, outdated data and bad analysis. At least seven other airports across the nation handle far more operations than Detroit with four or fewer parallel runways.



Meanwhile, the Airport Authority in Detroit continues to dodge community concerns, refusing to provide requested information or tell us truthfully why we need a fifth runway when all the

evidence proves otherwise. It also refuses to address questions about public safety, noise abatement, adequate compensation for homeowners.

See Mayors, page 7

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## Letters

### Festival location decision praised

To the editor:

As a Belleville city resident I sympathize with my neighbors who live around the high school and are concerned about the high volume of foot traffic and loitering that will occur around their homes during Strawberry Festival. I would not want this around my home. I would not appreciate cleaning up my property after the event was over or the risk of harm to my home during the event. As a resident, I am not sure this event, based on last years activities, is appropriate for the City of Belleville any longer.

I want to thank the Belleville City Council for keeping the event off Main Street for 2008. I do not believe the Belleville businesses should have their business blocked from vendors, especially competitors, during the festival and I think it is incredible wrong to charge our tax paying businesses a fee to exhibit at the festival.

I strongly urge the following consideration if the festival is to ever return to Main Street: "No Main Street business will be blocked by a festival vendor and if the Main Street business wants to exhibit at the Festival, they will be able to do so at no charge by the Festival or any other committee."

I would also encourage all Belleville businesses to host side walk sales during Strawberry Festival weekend to draw business

to main street from all the traffic generated toward the high school property.

June Brokos,  
Belleville

### Responsible airport planning urged

To the editor:

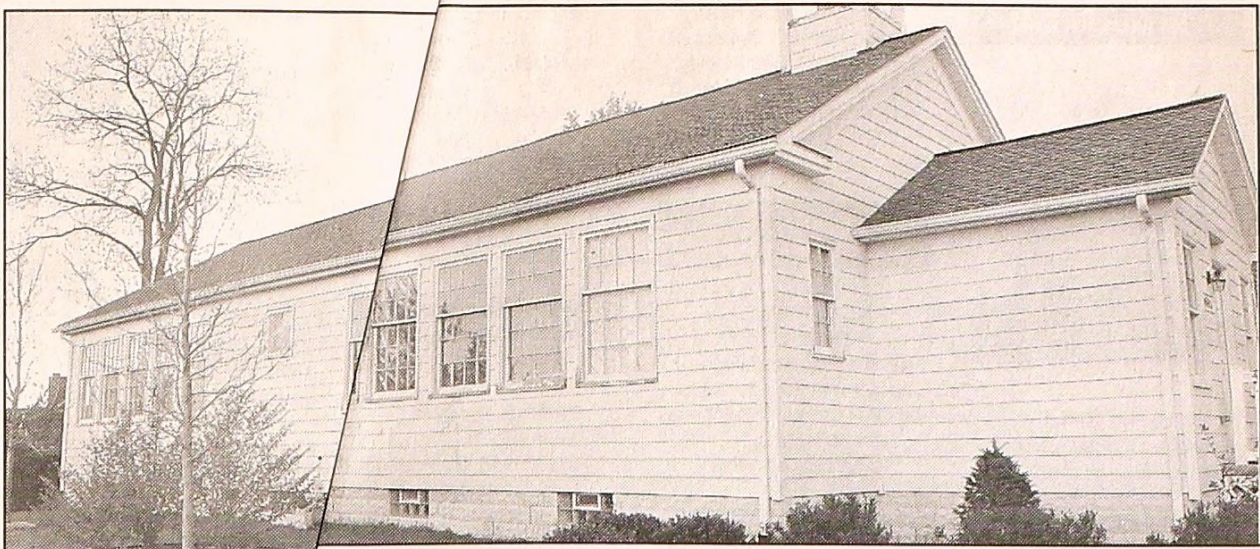
The Wayne County Airport Authority Board has control over two airports: Willow Run Airport and Metro Detroit Airport, and they need to take a look at how these assets can be managed together before deciding to expand outside of Metro Airport's boundaries.

For example, moving cargo services from Metro Airport to Willow Run will allow Metro Airport to have more capacity for passenger services. Willow Run, which is close to I-94, I-275 and U.S. 23, already has five runways, a 24-hour FAA control tower and U.S. Customs inspections.

Since the airports are only within 12 miles of each other and together have 11 runways, the Airport Authority should develop a master plan that combines operations of both airports.

Planning the two airports together would be a more efficient and responsible management of the assets afforded to our region without disrupting the communities and displacing our residents.

Rodney Tackett,  
Romulus



The Old Hough School has been transformed again, this time into a single-family residence.

## For sale Historic Canton schoolhouse home to be sold

So Spielman  
Editor

A piece of history is for sale in Canton Township.

The old one-room Hough School near the corner of Warren and Haggerty roads has survived several different uses—as well as threats of demolition and relocation—and has now been converted into a 2,000-square-foot home.

"It's just different, that's all," said Canton trustee Melissa McLaughlin, who also serves on the Canton Historic Commission. "They used some historic license on it. They really did a nice job."

The schoolhouse dates back to the 1880s, when it was located on the east side of what is now Old Haggerty Road. Owned by the Hough family—Lewis Cass Hough was one of the original schoolteachers there—it was moved to the west side of the road and expanded in subsequent years. The original timber frame is still be seen in the expan-

sive basement.

"It might be the oldest building in Canton," said Mel Belovicz, a developer who used the building as an office for about 10 years.

It was assimilated into what was then the Plymouth-Township School District in 1952 and closed during the 1970s. A nursery school operated out of the structure for a time, according to McLaughlin, and the owners initiated the process of adding it to the National Historic registry.

The property was sold to Belovicz in the late 1990s to make way for a condominium development, Copper Creek Condominiums. Those new structures now line either side of the triangular piece of property that faces Warren Road.

Belovicz had originally wanted to tear down or relocate the structure—perhaps to land near Mettetal Airport—but its presence on the Historic Registry saved it from both fates.

"The last thing I really wanted

was that the school wouldn't be there," said McLaughlin, who also served on the township planning commission during the development process.

Belovicz agreed to transform the old schoolhouse into an office, and liked the outcome so much that he used it as his own for 10 years. Now that the two condominium complexes are complete, however, the building is available as a residence. Belovicz's son, Cary, said the front parking lot will be replaced with additional landscaping, completing the transformation.

"It's a neat piece of history, and it's got a neat story behind it," he said.

McLaughlin said it wasn't surprising that the developer wanted to use it as an office after the renovations were complete.

"They've maintained it for so long, I think they're going to hate to sell it," she said.

"You tend to get attached to those old buildings."

## Mayors

FROM PAGE 6

ers who will be forced to move, relief for businesses that will have to shut down and lay off workers, and much more.

As the Airport Authority Board prepares to meet May 22, we specifically request that the Board eliminate the fifth parallel runway and the runway extension from the Master Plan. We also urge the Board to give us more time to study this proposal in general, after all the data and analysis has been

shared, so the airport and local communities can work together – using the best and latest data – to buy a plan that will help the airport meet its goals while safeguarding local communities and our citizens.

We recognize the importance of the airport and appreciate its role

in bringing trade, business, visitors and opportunities to our communities. We have every interest in seeing it succeed. We ask only that the Airport Authority use the latest data – as the federal government told it to do in 2007 – and give us more time to build a forward-looking, accurate Master Plan that we

can all be proud of.

Romulus Mayor Alan Lambert,  
Taylor Mayor Cameron Priebe,  
Dearborn Mayor John  
(Jack) O'Reilly,  
Dearborn Heights Mayor Daniel  
Paletko, and  
Inkster Mayor Hilliard Hampton Jr.

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### 1. Obituaries



COLBURN, Austin Edward, age 64, died April 10, 2008. He was born June 13, 1943. Austin leaves to cherish his memory two daughters, Nicole Colburn of Houston, TX and Rashonda Colburn (Raynell Pitts) of Detroit, MI; seven grandchildren; two sisters, Lee Vera Terrell of Hamilton, AL and Fleta Horton (Howard) of Detroit, MI; one uncle, Herbert D. Spears of Alexandria, VA; one nephew; two nieces and a host of cousins and friends. Services were held at Penn Funeral Home with Rev. Arthur Willis officiating. Cremation rites were accorded. Final arrangements were entrusted to Penn Funeral Home, Inkster, MI.



HAMPTON, Tracy Marie, age 37, died April 20, 2008. She was born May 28, 1970. She leaves to cherish her memory her mother, Gloria

Hampton of Wayne, MI; one daughter, Dashayla Marie Hampton of Wayne, MI; two sisters, Stacy Carpenter of Pine Bluff, AR and Angela Hampton of Wayne, MI; one niece, Allison Carpenter of Pine Bluff, AR; one brother-in-law, Earles Carpenter of Pine Bluff, AR; a long time friend, Dave Brown of Detroit, MI; grandmother, Annie Hampton of Southfield, MI; two uncles, Jerry Hampton of Southfield, MI and Jerry Laird of Mount Olive, MS; one aunt, Janie Shelby of Detroit, MI and a host of other cousins and friends. Services were held at Penn Funeral Home with Pastor Ethelbert Slater officiating. Cremation rites were accorded. Final arrangements were entrusted to Penn Funeral Home, Inkster, MI.



HUFFMAN, Debra Robinson, age 54, died April 25, 2008. She was born April 27, 1953. Debra leaves to cherish her memory, her loving husband, Walter; son, Perry (Michelle); son, Christopher; stepson, Tito (Nicole); stepdaughter, Maya (Farmer); three sisters, Jacquelyn (John), Janice (Ronald) and Joyce; three brothers, William, Gregory (Melissa) and Kenneth; six grandchildren, Perry VI, Chase, Kajsha, Miles,

Lincoln and Lucas; five sisters-in-law, Pat, Diane, Annette (Irene), Virgie (Andre) and Evelyn (Roy); two brothers-in-law, Tommy (Roxa) and Carzel (Regina); many nieces and nephews, including Aaron, Andre, Jr., Kyle, Trenea, Ashli, Alicia, Garian, Malia, Javen, Aram, Jaire and many more. She also leaves a host of other relatives and friends. Services were held at New St. Mark Missionary Baptist Church with Rev. Larry Smith officiating. Interment was at Trinity Cemetery, Detroit, MI. Final arrangements were entrusted to Penn Funeral Home, Inkster, MI.

COBS, Dorothy Ellen, 88 of Wayne, passed away Monday May 5, 2008 at West Branch Regional Medical Center. Dorothy was born on April 2, 1920 in Bay City to the late Charles Henry and Alma Eina (Carder) Richardson. She grew up and attended school in Bay City and later moved to Chicago. She was married in Bay City on June 23, 1943 to Rev. Charles Elbert Jacobs, who preceded her in death in 1995. The couple had served many United Methodist Congregations throughout Michigan before coming in Wayne after serving the church there for 14 years. Dorothy had also worked as an executive secretary for several years. Surviving Mrs. Jacobs are her two loving daughters; Lyle Reinhart of Adrian, and Beth (Rev. Calvin) Long of Houghton Lake; two loving sons, Rev. Charles (Ann) Jacobs of Howell, and Rev.

James (Joanna) Jacobs of Monroe; nine grandchildren; five great grandchildren; and several nieces and nephews.

Dorothy was preceded in death by her parents, her husband, two brothers, Edward and Russell, and one sister, Ethel Lehman. Funeral Services for Mrs. Dorothy Ellen Jacobs will be conducted 12:00PM Friday May 9, 2008 at the Houghton Lake United Methodist Church. Interment will be in Gresham Cemetery, Charlotte, MI. The family will receive friends at the church on Friday May 9, 2008 from 10:00AM until the time of the service. Those wishing to make memorial contributions are asked to consider the Simpson Park Camp in Romeo, MI., or the Houghton Lake United Methodist Church Organ Fund. Christler Funeral Home, Houghton Lake Chapel served the family. www.christler-holdship.com

KOKOWICZ, Charles, age 58 of Southgate, died April 29, 2008. Brother of William (Barb), Arlene Kmet, Gloria Kokowicz, Sandra (Gary) Phillips, and Richard (Sharon). Preceded in death by his parents Edmund and Marian and his brothers Robert and Edmund. Survived by many nieces and nephews. Visitation and Funeral Services were held at Harry J. Will funeral Home, Wayne followed with Interment at Michigan Memorial Cemetery in Flat Rock.

SHEDD, Leonard S., 81 of Bad Axe, passed away Monday, May 05, 2008 at St. Mary's Hospital in Saginaw. He was born May 27, 1926 in Detroit to the late Arthur G. and Eleanor R. (Stephan) Shedd. Leonard and Ms. Evelyn M. Zacharek were united in marriage on August 7, 1948 and would have shared their 60th anniversary this year.

In 1934 he attended the Henry Ford Trade School for Tool and Dye Tradesman. Leonard served in the U.S. Army during World War II and was stationed in Germany. Mr. Shedd was a member of Our Savior Lutheran Church in Bad Axe and the Verona Hills Golf Club. Leonard was a line-man with DTE for 34 years before retiring in 1986. He was also a member of IBEW (Local 17) for 60 years. He enjoyed hunting, golfing, fishing and spending time with family and friends. He is survived by his wife, Evelyn; two sons, Gary (Kathleen) Shedd of Harbor Beach and Thomas Shedd of Bad Axe; a daughter, Christine (Reed) Elliott of Las Cruces, N.M.; six grandchildren, Gary Jr. (Rachel) Shedd of Harbor Beach, Stephanie (Chad) Redburn of Harbor Beach, Reed (Melissa) Elliott, Jr. of Las Cruces, N.M., Kimberly (Steven) Drexler of Phoenix, AZ., Ryan and Amanda Shedd of Saginaw; five great-grandchildren, Gabriel, Paytan, Brenden, Aidan and Brooklyn.; two brothers, James C. Shedd of Ypsilanti and Richard (Alice) Shedd of Gobels, MI. He was preceded in death by seven siblings, Frederick, Arthur, John, Norman, Marilyn,

Irene and Mike. Funeral Services will be held Friday at 11 a.m. at Our Savior Lutheran Church in Bad Axe. Officiating will be Rev. Kenneth Lueke, pastor. Burial will be in Verona Township Cemetery. Visitation will be Thursday from 2 - 9 p.m. at the MacAlpine "Mac" Chapel in Bad Axe and Friday from 10-11 a.m. at the church. Memorials may be offered to Our Savior Lutheran Church Building Fund.

TOLLEFSON, Kenneth L., age 77 of Garden City, died April 29, 2008. Beloved husband of Jean for 53 years. Dear father of Cathy (Louie) Habicht, Kerri (Tom) Henley, and the late Chuck. Dearest grandfather of Karen, David,

Chuck, Mark, Jared, T.J, Keli, and Bryan; and great grandfather of Todd, Zack, Briane, Tony, and Ian. Also survived by loving brother Richard (Virginia). Ken was a proud Navy Veteran. Visitation and Funeral Services were held at Harry J. Will Funeral Home, Wayne, followed with Interment at Knollwood Cemetery, in Canton.

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Two years have passed  
since you've been gone  
It's still so hard  
to carry on  
Our hearts still ache  
And the tears still flow  
You were loved so much  
I pray you know  
Your death leaves a  
heartache  
No one can heal  
Your love leaves a memory  
No one can steal

We will forever Love & miss  
you  
Mama, Dad, Gerard, Nana,  
Gram & Grandpa Eddie

Lots of Love  
Daughter, Granddaughter,  
Big Sis, God Sis, Auntie,  
Stepdaughter, Niece, Cousin  
& Friend

WE MISS YOU TEE TEE

5. Announcements

MOTHER'S DAY  
FLOWER SALE  
Proceeds to benefit the  
Wayne Memorial Marching  
Band  
Friday 5/9 5-8  
Sat & Sun 5/10 & 5/11  
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30. Help Wanted

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59. Auctions

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D96: Alicia R. Johnson  
E48: Donna Marie Grant

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4Dr Green  
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79 Amer Trk  
Brown  
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94 Ford Escort  
Blue  
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60. Misc. Sales

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# SPORTS

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Wayne pitcher Ryan Collop was back on track last week when he helped his Zebras beat cross-town rival Glenn, 6-2.

## Wayne tops Glenn, 6-2

Jeff Novak  
Staff Writer

The Wayne Zebras picked a good week to come alive when they hosted cross-town rival John Glenn on the last day of April to earn their best—if not most important—win of the season, 6-2.

The crossover win didn't help their division record and only improved their overall record to 8-11, but it was just as much a mental victory as a physical one. Senior hurler Ryan Collop, who struggled through the first half of the season, put in a memorable performance in the triumph.

Collop pitched a complete game with six strikeouts and spread out five hits and three walks over the seven-inning outing. The performance helped back up a strong show by another struggling starter Jon Bryant last Monday. Bryant held Plymouth to one run through five innings before the Wildcats broke through in the sixth. Wayne didn't win that game but it showed that Zebra arms are alive and well.

"It was great to see Ryan have a good outing like that," said Wayne Coach Paul Cavanaugh. "He has been putting a lot of pressure on himself to pitch well and he turned in a good game for us. Along with the fact that Jon Bryant also pitched well his last outing I think the starters might be getting back to the way that they can pitch and that we had hoped that they would pitch this year."

With that said, the rivalry match-up with the Rockets looked as routine as a regular practice for Wayne with everything falling nicely into place.

That is until Glenn scored an unearned run in the top of the

third inning for a 1-0 lead.

Wayne settled back down and, at the bottom of the inning, took advantage of Glenn errors to overcome the Rockets, 2-1.

Junior newcomer Zeb Hancock made his way around the bases on what otherwise was a double due to two overthrown cutoffs. The hit also scored Brent Patterson from first.

The good fortune continued in the fourth, when senior Stefan Harrison knocked in Bryant and senior Eric Schmitt on a single for a 4-1 advantage. In the fifth, Wayne added one more when Hancock scored from third on a fielder's choice. Schmitt, in to pinch run for senior Tim Siegfried, scored from third on junior Jesse Dorow's grounder in the bottom of the sixth.

Glenn scored its second run in the seventh on sacrifice popup by senior Jon Gillis. Collop held the Rockets off the rest of the way.

"It's always good for the kids to win the rivalry game with the cross-town team especially since so many of them are friends and now they have bragging rights for the year," Cavanaugh said. "It was a big win for the team as well. Hopefully it showed that all of the hard work the guys have been doing to turn the corner and get back on track is paying off."

"And I would be lying if I said that this was just another win for me," he added. "Being a Wayne grad and former player, I know what winning these games mean. It's always special to win the cross-town game and beat a quality team and coach that I respect like Glenn and Coach (Tom) Wakefield."

See **Rivalry**, page 11

## Plymouth wins Holt tourney

Jeff Novak  
Staff Writer

Plymouth baseball started the month of May off with a bang when they won the Holt Tournament on Saturday.

The Wildcats mercied Union City, 15-4, in six innings to land in the final against host Holt. There they shut out the Rams, 11-0, for the hardware. Plymouth only gave up six total hits—three in each—in the two games.

Junior pitcher Brad Lineberry was near perfect in the seven innings he threw in finale. He only gave up three hits with two walks while striking out seven.

Plymouth's red-hot offense scored five runs in the seventh to put the game away for good. Up to that point the 'Cats scored one in the first, third and fifth and three in the sixth.

Senior captain David Harvey had two doubles with two RBIs and five runs scored to lead the assault. Junior Ronnnie Goble was 2-for-2 at bat with two RBIs and one run. Junior Travis Mewton had a hit with two RBIs and a score and junior Mike Rose scored twice and had an RBI. Senior Garrett Rebain had a hit with two RBIs. Senior Steve

Ostrowski scored a run and was 1-for-3 with an RBI while Lineberry had a hit and scored a run and junior Luke Merandi had an RBI.

Plymouth got a handle on Union City early and didn't let go.

Rose and Mewton each ripped triples in the game and Lineberry had a double. Junior Matt Skubik was perfect with his two times at bat, knockin in two and scoring once.

Union City earned four runs—two in the first and two in the second—on three hits against senior Dan Nadratowski. Nadratowski settled in and held Union City scoreless the rest of the way. He finished with eight strikeouts and three walks.

The tournament victory was a nice rebound from a tough, 8-3, loss to visiting Walled Lake Central last Wednesday.

Central jumped ahead early with a two-run single with two outs and followed that up with a three-run homer to go up, 5-0. Plymouth answered with scores by Lineberry, Skubik and Luke Merandi.

Central came back with three more runs in the fourth for the win.

"They did a good job of shutting us down the rest of the way with a couple of nice relievers," said

Plymouth Coach Chuck Adams. "We will have to regroup and refocus from here. We want to have a big month of May, so now's the time to tighten the bolts."

Senior pitcher Garrett Rebain pitched a three-hitter and held off the Wayne Zebras' bats last Monday for the Wildcats to prevail, 5-3.

Plymouth trailed 3-1 after three innings, scoring there lone run up to that point in the first. Wayne pitcher Jon Bryant kept Plymouth quiet until the sixth when the Cats strung together some hits, including a home run by David Harvey, to score three runs and take the lead. They added an insurance run in the seventh.

"Garrett Rebain was outstanding on the mound for us tonight," Adams said. "He kept our team in it while we struggled offensively for most of the game. When we finally got to their pitcher (Jon Bryant) in the sixth, Garrett simply slammed the door on them the rest of the way."

Plymouth hosts Northville at 4 p.m. on Friday and West Bloomfield at noon in a doubleheader on Saturday. Then the Cats head to Walled Lake Western at 4 p.m. on Monday and host Stevenson at 4 p.m. on Wednesday.



### Hot Streak

The Northville Lady Mustangs improved their win streak to eight when they shut out Wayne Memorial, 5-0, at home on Monday. Northville out shot the Lady Zebras 22-0 in the contest and scored twice in the first seven minutes of play. Northville led 3-0 at the half. Senior Sarah Stern led the offensive attack with three goals. Juniors Nicole Miller and Karen Mayhall each added a tally. Sophomore goalkeeper Katherine Jansen didn't face any shots for the shutout victory. Last week, Northville battled host Canton to a 1-0 victory. Junior Samantha Mustonen was credited with the goal. She fired a close-range shot that bounced off a defenders foot with 11:16 left to play in the first half. Junior Kathleen Keiffer notched the assist on the play. Above, sophomore goalkeeper Elana Rysnar spoils a scoring opportunity for Canton senior Jessica Trost (12). At right, Canton junior Megan Staub (right) tries to make a play against Northville sophomore Tori Wright. Northville hosts Franklin at 7 p.m. Monday and head to Walled Lake Western at 7 p.m. on Wednesday. Canton is at Wayne at 4 p.m. on Monday and at home against Franklin at 7 p.m. on Wednesday. Wayne is at Plymouth at 7 p.m. on Wednesday.



## Lady Mustangs place 3rd at Stars

Jeff Novak  
Staff Writer

Some of the top softball teams in the state converged at the Michigan Stars High School Softball Tournament in Sterling Heights over the weekend and the Northville Lady Mustangs proved they could hold their own against the best of them.

Northville finished third out of 48 teams, beating heavy hitters like Anchor Bay—ranked fourth in Division 1—fifth-ranked Sterling Heights Stevenson and Flint Powers Catholic.

Northville shut out Flint Powers Catholic, 3-0, in the opening game of the tournament.

Senior Allison Holmes struck out 12 and gave up just four hits for the win.

Julia Ramey had an in-the-park, two-run home run in the second inning. Karly Fisher followed with an RBI, single to score Jamie Cotrone, who lead off the frame

with a triple.

Northville put Anchor Bay away, 7-4, in the second game.

Holmes pitched a five-hitter with nine Ks.

Samantha Doud was 3-for-3 with two singles and a double; Rounsifer had two singles; and Dumbleton had a single with an RBI. Birdsall had a two-RBI single in the third.

Northville shut out Sterling Heights Stevenson, 5-0, in its first game on Sunday.

Holmes sat down 12 and allowed just three hits.

"Allison pitched great all tournament," said Northville Coach Teryn Chrzanowski. "She was a work horse, going all five games. She slowed down against Tecumseh, but they are a great team and we didn't provide the offense to back her up."

The team's only two losses were to the tournament runner-up and ninth-ranked Fenton and to tournament champion and reigning

Division 2 state champion Tecumseh.

To Northville's credit, the 'Stangs made the championship bracket as a Wild Card, allowing the fewest runs against with five.

Northville only lost to Fenton, 1-0, in its third game on Saturday.

Holmes put in a good effort from the circle, striking out 10 and only giving up two hits.

Fenton scored at the top of the seventh on an unearned run.

Brittany Birdsall went 2-for-3. Sarah Rounsifer, Jamie Cotrone, Jenna Dumbleton, Karly Fisher each added a hit.

Northville lost to Tecumseh, 3-0.

Birdsall and Rounsifer were the only two hits in the game—both singles.

"I'm very proud of the way the girls played this weekend," Chrzanowski said. "They showed that they can play with any team in the state. It was great to see strong competition heading into the last stretch of the season."



Wayne's Zeb Hancock slides into third before scrambling home on an error.

SPORTS

# Whalers select 14 in OHL draft

Jeff Novak  
Staff Writer

It's too early to tell whether the Whalers' 14 picks in the Ontario Hockey League Priority Draft on Saturday will make an immediate impact or just ride the pine.

Chances are fans will see a little bit of both as some rise to the top and others fall to the wayside when the season starts in September.

Leading the crop of drafted young players is Tyler Seguin of the Toronto Young Nationals, who was the ninth selection overall. Seguin, a talented center that is compared to the likes of NHL star Joe Sakic, scored 39 goals and 47 assists in 51 games last season.

Seguin already has a strong Whaler connection. He hails from Brampton, Ontario—the home of Whaler veteran Chris Terry. The two train together in the off-season and play in a summer league together.

“Chris's dad (John) coaches my sister's hockey team, so I see Chris at the rink all the time,” Seguin said. “We work out together in a little 3-on-3 league and play on the same line. We actually work very well together.”

The NHL's Central Scouting Agency reports Seguin as a good skater with quickness and agility and with great puck-handling skills that plays at top speed with great vision.

“(He) is a young man we watched quite a bit over the course of the year and have been after all season,” said Mike Vellucci, the Whalers' president and general manager. “He's an exceptional talent who sees the ice very well. He's grown a lot – he's over 6-foot-1 right now. He's a great playmaker and goal scorer. He's a very, very good skater and

offensive talent.”

With their second-round pick (26th overall), the Whalers added another offensive threat with 18-year-old center Zac Dalpe.

Dalpe scored 35 goals and 45 assists in 62 games for Penticton of the British Columbia Jr. A League.

Dalpe, a Paris, Ontario native, has a Whaler connection, too. He attended the Whalers' Rookie Camp three years ago but was too small at the time. He was only about 5-foot-4 and weighed in between 110 and 115 pounds.

Over the last three years his size caught up to his talent and he gained the attention of college and pro scouts. Ohio State University even offered him a scholarship and Central Scouting has Dalpe listed at 16th overall in its final rankings. Daple is eligible for the NHL Entry Draft this summer.

“Dalpe came to our camp three years ago as a walk-on, then played in Stratford before moving to the British Columbia Jr. A League,” Vellucci said. “He's rated in the top-16 in the NHL Draft this year. He is committed to Ohio State, but once he gets selected by an NHL team, we have a good shot at Zac reporting to Plymouth. We've talked to him and would like to get him into camp.”

Plymouth selected Detroit-area defenseman Jonathon Merrill in the third round with the 50th overall pick. Many believe Merrill, who played for the Detroit Little Caesars, to be a first-round NHL pick if he does not go the college route. Merrill is an extremely talented offensive-minded defenseman who plays a very high-risk, high-reward style of game, according to Central Scouting.

“We had (him) rated as a top



Current Whaler Vern Cooper was taken by Plymouth in the first round (13th overall) in 2006. Photo by Walt Dmoch

defenseman on our list,” Vellucci said. “He is committed to Michigan and the US program, but we'll wait and see.”

Plymouth added some size with its other 11 players. Eight of them are 6-foot or taller.

“I felt we needed some size,” Vellucci said. “We have some grit, but we also have guys with skill, so we have addressed that. We selected some guys that are physical – (Brendan) McLeskey is a tough kid, but has good hands. Austin Levi is a big, raw defenseman that plays for Compuware and we love him because he's got some untapped ability. Levi and DJ Hastings will be playing for the Compuware Midget Majors and they'll be able to practice with us every day and get stronger and bigger. I watched Kevin Gravel at the Ann Arbor Top-40 Tournament and love how he plays.”

Draft day came and went and now fans will have to wait and see what impact, if any, the new players will have on the team.

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IRON MAN (PG-13) 11:10, 1:00, 1:50, 3:40, 4:25, 6:20, 7:00, 9:00, 9:45 FRI/SAT LS 11:40  
HAROLD AND KUMAR ESCAPE FROM GUANTANAMO BAY (R) FRI-WED 7:05, 9:25 FRI/SAT LS 11:45  
BABY MAMA (PG-13) 12:55, 3:10, 5:25, 7:40, 9:55  
FORGETTING SARAH MARSHALL (R) FRI-TUE, TH 1:40, 4:05, 9:20 FRI/SAT LS 11:45  
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# The Champs

## Romulus Lions win state championship

Jeff Novak  
Staff Writer

Three times is the charm. The Romulus Community High School Lions basketball team mauled rival Flint Beecher, 65-54, to win their third Michigan Alternative Athletic Association (MAAA) Class B State Championship in four years. The Match-up was a tough one, considering Flint Beecher beat the Lions in both meetings earlier in the season by 11 and 13 points. Beecher was hot early taking a seven-point lead. Flint maintained the lead until Romulus point guard Terry Bumper hit a running 30-foot shot at the buzzer to trim the lead down to four. "That was a huge shot for us," said Bumper. "We had a very

shaky first half and that shot gave us some momentum heading into the locker room." The second half belonged to the Lions as they recovered from the deficit and outscored Beecher by 15 points to capture the championship. Despite garnering all the attention from Beecher's defense, Ray Everett was electric in leading the assault. He scored a game-high 31 points. "They were bumping Ray all up and down the court, trying to get him off of his game," said Romulus Coach Charles TenBroeck. "But Ray kept focused and played through that to have his best game at the best time." Bumper ran the offense flawlessly and added 29 points to the team's total. The offense stole the

show but it was team defense that won the game, according to TenBroeck. Vincent Barksdale had nine rebounds and blocked three shots. James Wells and Desmond Wills were solid and kept Beecher from penetrating the Lion's zone defense, TenBroeck said. "Most importantly the team conducted themselves like champions with a lot of pride and dignity off the court," TenBroeck said. "They handled winning the championship with class and represented our schools and the city of Romulus the way it deserves." The Lions beat Tomlinson out of Jackson, 58-42, in the state quarterfinals and beat Grand Rapids' Omega, 63-38, in the state semifinals to reach the championship game.



The Romulus Community High School Lions show off their championship hardware after beating Flint Beecher, 65-54. First row from left are Justin Thompson, Lamonte Nance-Young, Desmond Wills, Corey Wilson, Terry Bumper, and Desmond Wills and from left in back row are Robert Booker, Vincent Barksdale, Ray Everett, and Devon Smith.

# Rivalry

FROM PAGE 9

Senior Jase Paciocco accounted for three of Glenn's five hits on the day. The Rockets started the season strong and have kept their heads above water until this loss dunked them under the .500 mark for the first time. After the game, Glenn was 9-10 overall. "We are just not doing the little things," said Glenn Coach Tom Wakefield. "(Doing the little things) is what makes our program run. We have gotten away from that. Our philosophy focuses on playing ourselves. We have to make plays and minimize mental lapses in order to be successful. We didn't do that

*We are just not doing the little things. We have gotten away from that. Our philosophy focuses on playing ourselves.*

Glenn Coach  
Tom Wakefield

against Wayne." Wakefield hopes the slide doesn't continue and with some good practices last week feels the fire was relit. "Teams usually face some kind

of adversity throughout the season," he said. "We are facing ours right now. I have confidence that this team will respond and peak at the right time." Glenn heads to Churchill at 4 p.m. on Friday; hosts Walled Lake Western at 4 p.m. on Monday; and heads back on the road to Northville at 4 p.m. on Wednesday. Wayne is at Franklin at 4 p.m. on Friday and Andover—for a doubleheader—at 10 a.m. on Saturday. They return home to host Canton at 4 p.m. on Monday and Walled Lake Northern at 4 p.m. on Wednesday.

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Plymouth head coach Greg Stefan (left) welcomes Beau Schmitz (right) to the hockey club. Photo by Natalie Shaver

# Whalers sign Schmitz

Jeff Novak  
Staff Writer

Mike Vellucci, president and general manager of the Plymouth Whalers, said he had a relatively simple draft strategy. "Every year when we go into the draft, we look to take the best player available," said Vellucci said. "Every once in a great while, we may try to fill a specific need. But when we sit down and talk, we're looking for the best player available – the most skill, the best character and other traits we're looking for when we're drafting a Plymouth Whaler." A Whaler roster that was already young heading into next year just got a little bit younger and a little more talented with several picks in this year's Ontario Hockey League Priority Draft. (See related story pg. 10).

With some choice selections over the weekend and signing last year's first round pick last week, the Whalers filled some of the voids responsible for the team's first-round exit in the playoffs, courtesy of a four-game sweep from the Sault Ste. Marie Greyhounds. The Whalers' only true need is experience. The Whalers received a jump-start to the 2008-09 season when 17-year-old defenseman Beau Schmitz out of Howell, MI—Plymouth's first-round (19th overall) pick last year—signed last Monday after spending last season with the National Team Development Program in Ann Arbor. "Beau's an exceptional offensive talent," Vellucci said. "He will be one

of the best skaters in our league. He's a very tough defenseman and can play any aspect of the game that we ask." Schmitz scored six goals with nine assists for 15 points in 59 games for the NTDP's Under-17 Team. Schmitz led both the Under-17 and Under-18 Teams with 108 penalty minutes. "Coming to Plymouth is a great opportunity," Schmitz said. "It will help me out with the schooling they offer and the NHL Draft. I like to get up into the play offensively, but play a good defensive game, too." In 2006-07, Schmitz played with current Whalers R.J. Mahalak of Monroe and Westland's Tyler J. Brown on the Belle Tire Under-16 team that won State and National championships. "They both have been talking to me," Schmitz said. "They encouraged me, told me how much fun it was and what a nice place Plymouth is." Vellucci compares him to former Whalers captain and current Chicago Blackhawks James Wisniewski, but a better skater. "He was the best defenseman in his age group and definitely the best American defenseman of his age group," Vellucci said. "He's tough, hates to lose and is the complete package. He plays a very in-your-face style of hockey, what I call Whaler hockey." Next up for the Whalers is Annual Rookie Orientation Camp on May 17-18 where the organization brings in its 2007 and 2008 draft choices to get a better look at the young talent.

*They encouraged me, told me how much fun it was and what a nice place Plymouth is.*  
Beau Schmitz

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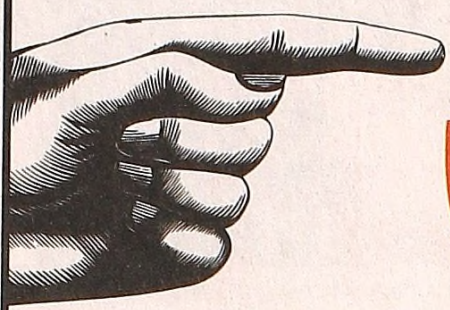
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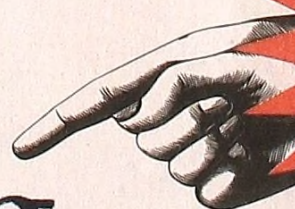
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